

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 477

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James G. Neeley for his astute service to Tennessee Council for Career and Technical Education.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and commend those statesmen who have served Tennessee with the greatest acumen and dedication; and

WHEREAS, James G. Neeley is one such individual who has served astutely in the diverse governmental areas of labor, workforce development, workers' compensation, industrial recruitment, and career technical education; and

WHEREAS, James G. Neeley served two terms with distinction as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development; he was appointed by Governor Blanton in 1974 and then again by Governor Bredesen in 2002; and

WHEREAS, James Neeley served as the president of American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations from 1979 to 2002; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neeley was appointed by Governor McWherter to the Tennessee Council for Career and Technical Education in 1989; and served as its chairman from 1995 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Neeley's notable achievements include his participation in the passage of the Worker's Compensation Reform Act in 2004; in addition to this, he set the groundwork for long-term economic stability in emerging green industries and promoted public-private partnerships to encourage educational improvements in conjunction with economic and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Neeley played an important role in establishing the comprehensive West Tennessee Career Center in Jackson and its system of affiliate and service centers located in each county in Workforce Investment Area 11 (West Tennessee); and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. Neeley was honored for his years of service to the State by the Tennessee Industrial Development Council; as he entered retirement in 2011 he was commemorated for his lifetime of achievement by the Tennessee Center for Labor Management; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Career Center in Huntingdon, Tennessee was named in honor of James G. Neeley as being a leading force in career and technical education in Tennessee by aligning education with economic and workforce development, which concept has benefitted thousands of Tennesseans and strengthened the economic climate in this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend James G. Neeley for his exceptional service to the Tennessee Council for Career and Technical Education, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.